

Mayland Technical Institute in Spruce Pine moved to its new main campus and facilities in January of this year. The new campus, located about two miles from Spruce Pine on Highway 19E, comprises a 38 acre tract with a 34,000 square feet building. Construction costs for the new campus were slightly over \$1.5 million, composed of Appalachian Regional Commission funds, State funds, and local funds from Avery. Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, whom the Institute is chartered to serve.

The Institute can boast of a 500% growth rate in curriculum students since its opening in 1971, from 80 students then to over 500 now. Curriculum programs have grown from a mere 4 in

USITA Fights Major Threat

The nation's Independent telephone companies will return to Congress this month to testify at Senate hearings on an issue which the telephone industry considers a major threat to the low cost basic phone service now being provided to consumers.

"Hearings on the future of telecommunications, including the impact of Federal **Communications** Commission policies fostering so-called competition, have been set by the Senate communications subcommittee for late March," Paul Wooten, District Commercial Manager, said.

Wilson B. Garnett, President of the U.S. Independent Telephone Association, will testify March 28 on behalf of Independent phone companies and customers. Other witnesses will include Paul H. Henson, Chairman of United Telecommunications, Inc., one of the largest non-Bell System holding companies, and R.G. Nehring, President of Arizona

1972 to a total of 16 today while the fulltime faculty have grown from an initial 5 to a current 30.

Until this year, Mayland Tech has been located in temporary facilities in downtown Spruce Pine with satellite facilities in Newland and Banner Elk. The growth of the institution over the past six years has exceeded original projections and the size of its new facilities is now deemed inadequate for housing all of its students and programs. Therefore, some of the original temporary facilities downtown in Spruce Pine are

continuing to be utilized. **CENTER IN YANCEY** Additionally, because of

an increase in community demand for expanded Continuing Education and Extension Classes, the Institute this

residential and small business

users, and therefore are not in

the public interest. The FCC®

has permitted customers to

own their own telephone

equipment, and has allowed

non-telephone companies to

provide intercity communica-

tions services to business

telephone industry supported

the principles behind the

Consumer Communications

Reform Act, which nearly 200

**Representatives and Senators** 

co-sponsored, to encourage

Congress to review national

communications policy," said

Wooten. "The same legisla-

tion has been reintroduced in

this Congress and already

has over 50 sponsors--more

than at the comparable time

done for USITA indicate the

FCC policies will cause rate

increases up to 60 percent

(excluding inflation) by 1985

for basic residential, rural and

small business service," he

"Objective outside studies

in the last session."

"Last year the whole

firms.

year opened a Yancey County

Learning Center in Burnsville, located 15 miles from the new main campus, to go along with its already existing Avery County Learning Center located in Newland, 22 miles from the main campus. Over 3,500 persons and a number of businesses and industries in Avery, Mitchell and Yancey Counties participate each year in a variety of extension and adult education programs.

This year Mayland Tech is maintaining its new campus facilities plus other facilities in each of the three counties it serves. Total annual fiscal operating needs are approximately \$1.5 million.

**VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS** At present the Institute offers seven curriculum pro-

grams in the Vocational area: Auto Mechanics, Diesel Mechanics, Child Care Worker, Cosmetology, Electrical-**Electronics Installation, Light** Construction, and Practical Nurse Education. In the Technical area, six programs are offered: Accounting, Business Administration. Office Technology, Secretarial Science (Executive, Legal, Medical), and Early Childhood Specialist. Criminal Justice was added this year to accommodate the community's increased demand for additional law enforcement training.

**GENERAL EDUCATION** 

Also, a formal general education program was approved by the State Board of Education this year. This new program offers a variety of courses in the liberal arts area leading to the Associate in Arts Degree. Institute personnel have been working closely with area four-year colleges and universities in developing possible transfer credit options for those students in the program who might wish to pursue the Baccalaureate Degree upon graduation from Mayland Tech.

Mayland Technical Institute is committed to expanding its role in serving community educational needs. With the occupancy of visit.

a permanent campus and an increase in faculty and staff, the Institute this year has been able to increase efforts toward the provision of a wider range of community and student services and activities. Additional sources of funding for special community projects are continually sought and applied for when feasible, by a new Office of Research and Development. A Director of Student Activities was added this year to explore with students ideas for increased student activities both on and off campus.

A result of the aforementioned commitment is the establishment of more formal lines of communication and coordination between the Institute and other local, state and federal agencies as a means of eliminating much of the duplication of services which presently exists among such agencies. Student activities have increased and the Student Government Association has taken an active and viable role in the decisionmaking process. New student clubs and organizations are currently being developed along with a student newspaper. An Alumni Association is being organized, and ways to involve alumni more in the Institute are under exploration. Also, a Board of Visitors made up of area citizens is being created so that the Institute can be better informed of community needs

programs and services. Mayland Technical Institute continues to strive to meet the growing needs of its constituents in a time of limited financial resources. Though current financial resources are not keeping pace with current community needs, the Institute is still able to maintain quality services at an optimum level through the extra efforts of its faculty and staff.

and obtain input on current

The Institute has an Open House planned for mid-May, but until that time, everyone is welcomed to drop by for a



## **Senior Citizens Celebrate Birthdays**

On March 24, 1977, a birthday party was held at the Nutrition Site at the Community Center in Burnsville. Honored guests were Plinnie Hensley, Gaither Edwards, Viola Harrison, Wash Fox, Ruby Robinson, Ethel Gilley, Zella Buchanan, and Claude Williams. The beautiful cake was baked by Ethel Higgins and was enjoyed by everyone. Many thanks to the Senior Citizens who brought food to supplement the food delivered each day. Approximately sixty people attended and

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#### **Courses Set**

Mayland Technical Institute will sponsor a Ceramics Art Class which will begin April 5 at 7:00 p.m. The course will be conducted at Polly Buchanan's Ceramics Shop in Bakersville, N.C. across from the Bakersville Volunteer Fire Department. For further information, contact the Continuing Education Department at Mayland Tech at 765-7351.

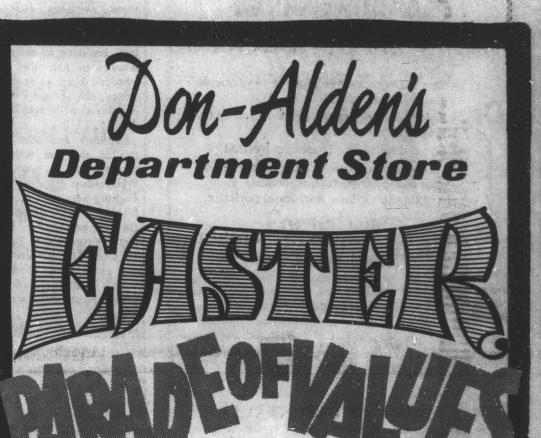
Mayland Technical Institute will conduct an advanced First Aid course beginning on Thursday, April 7, at 6:30 p.m. The course will be approximately 48 hours in length and will be held at the Yancey Learning Center in Lincoln Park. For additional information call the Yancey

Learning Center at 682-7315.

enjoyed a delicious meal.

The Nutrition Program is for anyone over 60 years of age who would like to come out for a day of relaxing and getting reacquainted with old friends and also learning a new craft. If you are interested in coming to the site and have no transportation, W.A.M.Y. Community Action provides Vans that make regular runs into the different areas of Yancey County each day. Please call 682-2610 or 682-7563.

Photo by Joe Moody



Telphone Company, a small company serving less than 1000 phones.

USITA is a national trade group which represents the interests of the 1,600 non-Bell System companies.

Independent (non-Bell) telephone companies serve over 28 million telephones in more than half of the nation's "telelphone territory," and Westco Telephone Company serves approximately 26,349 phones.

The Senate testimony follows three days of House hearings last September into the issue of so-called competition in communications.

The industry states that recent decisions by the FCC will cause higher rates for

#### said. "That is why we are particularly pleased to see the Senate joining the House in

reviewing this issue." "The telephone companies could successfully meet competition, but to do so we would have to change our pricing structure so that each type of customer would be charged according to the costs of providing his type of service. This inevitably would mean higher rates for residential consumers, whose rates purposely have been kept low to meet the objectives of the Communications Act of 1934." Wooten said. That legislation called for low cost, widespread telephone service for all Americans.

## **Talent Show Friday**

staged Friday night at 7:30 at the South Toe Elementary

A Talent Show will be School. Proceeds will go to the school. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and 50c for children.

#### **Receives Plaque**

Billy Gene Anglin on the right here receives his Million Dollar plaque from District Manager Clyde Randall. Bill works out of the Marion office of Western Southern Life Insurance Company and serves Burnsville and the surrounding area. Bill and his wife Pam and their son Kent live on Boone Ridge Road and attend the First Baptist Church.



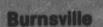
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